IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Where claims have been amended and/or canceled, such amendments and/or cancellations are done without prejudice and/or waiver and/or disclaimer to the claimed and/or disclosed subject matter, and the applicant and/or assignee reserves the right to claim this subject matter and/or other disclosed subject matter in a continuing application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting alignment of a document in an automatic document feeder comprising:

~~A:~~ providing an optical scanner having an automatic document feeder, the automatic document feeder having a colored pattern layer in a scanning window of the optical scanner, the document having at least one side edge;

~~B:~~ actuating the automatic document feeder to feed in [[a]] the document to a first position;

capturing a first image of the document while the document is in said first position;

~~C:~~ feeding the document an appropriate length to a second position, wherein the appropriate length comprises a length that is less than a length of the document;

~~D:~~ capturing a second image of the document while said document is in said second position; and

~~E:~~ calculating a slant value by comparing the first image with the second image.

2. (Previously Presented) The method for detecting alignment of a document in an automatic document feeder of claim 1, wherein the color of the colored pattern layer is different from that of the document.

3. (Currently Amended) The method for detecting alignment of a document in an automatic document feeder of claim 1, wherein the side edge [[in]] is substantially parallel to the feeding direction of the document.

4. (Previously Presented) The method for detecting alignment of a document in an automatic document feeder of claim 1, wherein a first distance comprises a distance from the side edge to a reference point positioned in the colored pattern layer.

5. (Currently Amended) The method for detecting alignment of a document in an automatic document feeder of claim 4, wherein a second distance comprises a distance from the side edge to the reference point after the document is fed the appropriate length to the second position ~~a length sufficient to enable measuring of said slant value is fed in~~.

6. (Previously Presented) The method for detecting the alignment of a document in an automatic document feeder of claim 4, wherein the reference point is positioned on a scan line of the scanning window.

7. (Currently Amended) The method for detecting alignment of a document in an automatic document feeder of claim 5, wherein the slant value comprises a ratio of the difference value of the first distance and the second distance to the appropriate [[a]] length, wherein the appropriate length further comprises a length sufficient to enable measuring of a slant value.

8. (Previously Presented) The method for detecting alignment of a document in an automatic document feeder of claim 7, wherein the slant value is calculated by an electronic calculation device.

9. (Previously Presented) The method for detecting alignment of a document in an automatic document feeder of claim 8, wherein the electronic calculation device comprises a software calculation program.

10. (Previously Presented) The method for detecting alignment of a document in an automatic document feeder of claim 8, wherein the electronic calculation device further comprises a calculator in a computer.

11. (Currently Amended) The method for detecting alignment of a document in an automatic document feeder of claim 1, and further comprising comparing the slant value with a preset value.

12. (Currently Amended) The method for detecting alignment of a document in an automatic document feeder of claim 11, wherein the preset value comprises a value that is tested and provided for the document ~~fed into the scanning area a length sufficient to enable measuring of a slant value~~.

13. (Previously Presented) The method for detecting alignment of a document in an automatic document feeder of claim 11, and further comprising scanning the document in response to the slant value being smaller than the preset value.

14. (Currently Amended) The method for detecting alignment of a document in an automatic document feeder of claim 11, and further comprising [[:]]

terminating scanning in response to the slant value being larger than the preset value.

15. (Currently Amended) The method for detecting alignment of a document in an automatic document feeder of claim 14, and further comprising [[:]] taking the document out of the

document feeder, and repeating ~~B through E.~~ said actuating the automatic document feeder, said capturing the first image of the document, said feeding the document the appropriate length to the second position, said capturing the second image of the document, and said calculating the slant value by comparing the first image with the second image.

16. (Previously Presented) The method for detecting alignment of a document in an automatic document feeder of claim 15, wherein said taking the document out of the document feeder further comprises manually taking the document out of the document feeder.

17. (Currently Amended) The method for detecting alignment of a document in an automatic document feeder of claim 13, and further comprising setting off an alarm in response to the slant value being larger than the preset value.

18. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

automatically feeding a document into an optical scanner to place the document in a first position;

capturing a first image while said document is in said first position;

automatically feeding the document into ~~an~~ the optical scanner an appropriate length to place the document in a second position, wherein the appropriate length comprises a length less than a length of the document;

capturing a second image while said document is in said second position; and

determining a slant value based, at least in part, on a comparison of the first image with the second image.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, and further comprising arranging a colored pattern in or near a scanning window of the optical scanner.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the color of the colored pattern is different from that of the document.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, and further comprising positioning a first edge of the document between the scanning window and the colored pattern.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, and further comprising measuring a first distance between the first edge and a reference point positioned in the colored pattern.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, and further comprising measuring a second distance between the first edge and the reference point positioned in the colored pattern.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the reference point is positioned on a scan line of the scanning window.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, and further comprising determining the slant value based, at least in part, on a ratio of a difference between the first distance and the second distance to the ~~second~~ appropriate length.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein the ~~second~~ appropriate length comprises a length ~~determined~~ sufficient to determine the slant value.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the slant value is calculated by an electronic calculation device.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the electronic calculation device further comprises a software calculation program.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the electronic calculation device comprises a calculator in a computer ~~executing scanning job~~.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, and further comprising comparing the slant value with a preset value.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the preset value comprises a value that is tested and provided for the document ~~appropriately fed into the scanning area~~.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, and further comprising continuously scanning in response to the slant value being smaller than the preset value.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, and further comprising terminating a scanning operation in response to the slant value being larger than the preset value.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, and further comprising repositioning the document.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33, and further comprising setting off an alarm [[if]] in response to the slant value ~~exceeds~~ exceeding the preset value.